

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*An Illustrated Manual of British Birds.* By HOWARD SAUNDERS, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c. Parts xiii.-xx.

THE issue of the concluding part of this book imposes upon us the pleasing duty of congratulating the Author of what may certainly be considered one of the most useful of recent publications. The accuracy which marked the earlier portion has been fully sustained in the remainder, and no pains have been spared to render the volume as complete as possible; while, without adding to the estimated expense, maps have been furnished of the United Kingdom, Europe, and the North Polar district, showing the elevation of the land and the depth of the surrounding seas in the first two cases. The labour involved in the constant condensation necessitated by the plan of the work must have been enormous, especially in such articles as those on the Red Greuse, Curlew, Great Bustard, and Great Auk: yet we notice that space is found for many useful details—for example, the critical differences between the Arctic, Common, and Roseate Terns, the Slavonian and Eared Grebes, the Arctic and Long-tailed Skuas, the eggs of the Guillemot and Razorbill.

The new woodcut of the Great Auk is taken from Bullock's Orkney specimen, while the Killdeer and Sociable Plovers, the Mediterranean Black-headed Gull, the Solitary Sandpiper, the Lesser Golden Plover, and the White-billed Northern Diver are recognized as British birds, and the first three are figured. The Spotted Sandpiper, on the other hand, is now rejected. Besides this, the names Wedge-tailed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, and Little Tern have been substituted for Cuneate-tailed Gull, Bonapartian Gull, and Lesser Tern, which were employed by Yarrell and which Mr. Saunders evidently felt constrained to employ in the 4th edition of the work which bears that author's name; the changes rendered possible by the absence of that feeling being decided improvements. A new derivation is suggested for the word 'Avocet;' the discovery of the Pectoral Sandpiper's eggs has been made since the 4th edition of 'Yarrell' appeared; and a probable occurrence of the Great Auk in the St. Kilda group has been lately brought to light.

In the Appendix, among further notes on several species, are to be found important records of the breeding of the Sand-Grouse and Snow-Bunting in Scotland, with the capture in Britain of *Emberiza coides*. The Introduction contains a list of the families and genera, with characters of the latter; while in the full and thorough Index we are glad to see that different type is used to distinguish the above as well as the species, and that in cases of local or little-known names the usual English equivalents have been added in brackets, to avoid the necessity of a double reference.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*Note on the Occurrence of a Species of Bothriceps in the Karoo System of South Africa.* By R. LYDEKKER.

SPECIMENS of skulls of a small Labyrinthodont from the Karoo System of the Orange Free State preserved in the British Museum